BRAUN, W A. [Barnard College - Columbia] January - March 1919 (661)

Barnard College
Columbia University
New York

January 25, 1919.

Sir Robert Falcnor, President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

My dear Sir Robert:

I am wondering whether, by any chance, your plans for this winter include another journey to New York. Your visits, as you know, are always a matter of keenest interest to your many friends here, but at this moment I have a special reason for my inquiry.

Our Department of Religion is attempting something rather unusual this year in organizing a short series of conferences or addresses with the general underlying idea of "The Religious Emphasis for the New Day". The writer is in charge of the arrangements for this course, and we have already secured the consent of some of the most noted clergymen of the country, including Harry Fosdick of New York, and Calkins of Cambridge to participate in our enterprise. But I am exceedingly anxious to have one or two speakers other than clergymen, and assure you that nothing can, in my opinion, more certainly guarantee the success of these meetings, of which there are to be eight, in February, March, and April, than your willingness to give us one of these addresses.

The only reason that I raised the question of your coming to New York on another errand and combining that with such an engagement, is because we, unfortunately, are unable to provide an honorarium commensurate with the

Barnard College
Columbia University
New York

importance of the men whom we are inviting. If, however, you could be persuaded to slip away from Toronto for a week-end with no other excuse on earth for coming excepting to give us your point of view as to the "Religious Emphasis for the New Era", we shall be most happy to pay your expenses and add thereto the munificent sum of twenty five dollars!

As to the time for such an engagement, I would suggest March 3, 24, or 31, or, if we might know quite soon, February 17 or 24. These are Mondays, but almost any day in those weeks could be made available.

Would you be so kind as to send me a line in regard to my suggestion as soon as convenient, and I shall be very grateful.

With kind regards, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Braun

WAB/EE

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January 27th, 1919

Professor W. A. Braun,

Barnard College,

Columbia University, New York.

Dear Professor Braun:

It was very kind of you to ask me to give an address at Barnard College and I should like very much to do so though I am afraid that my information and capabilities are rather inadequate to handle such a theme. It so happens that I expect to be in New York somewhere between 20th and 22nd of February for the purpose of attending the celebration of the centenary of James Russell Lowell's birth. If it were possible to fit my time in in such a way as not to interfere with the rest of my programme I should be glad to try to meet your wishes.

It would be a pleasure to see you again. On my last visit to New York I had very little time apart from some necessary engagements. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Barnard College
Columbia University
New York

January 30, 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer, President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

My dear Sir Robert:

We are indeed fortunate to find you so kindly disposed toward our invitation, and also, as it would seem, in a position to arrange for the contemplated visit to Barnard in combination with your coming trip to New York. Am I right in assuming from the wording of your letter, that you would be willing to remain over Sunday, so that your talk at Barnard could be given on Monday afternoon, February 24? For us such an arrangement would be quite ideal, so I very much hope that you will welcome the excuse for prolonging your all too brief holiday by just that much!

You may be interested to know that I am in a fair way to secure Captain Ian Hay Beith for the conference of the week before. I thought it would be interesting to get the reaction of a real soldier to a theme of this kind.

If you could presently write me in regard to my query in paragraph one, so that I might make definite announcement of your coming on February 24, I should be very grateful.

With kind regards believe me to be

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Braun

WAB/EE

316

February 1st, 1919

Professor W. A. Braun,

Barnard College,

Columbia University,

New York.

Dear Professor Braun:

I have now completed my arrangements about New York, and I expect to arrive there on Thursday morning, the 20th, but shall be engaged on Thursday evening and again on Saturday. I think that possibly Friday afternoon, the 21st, would be the only day that would be free. It is necessary for me to leave on Saturday evening to return to Toronto, and I am engaged on Saturday. If I can be of any service to you in between I shall be glad.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Barnard College
Columbia University
New York

February 3, 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

My dear Sir Robert:

Your letter of February 1st brings me the welcome news that we may definitely count on your visit for the afternoon of Friday, February 21 at four o'clock.

I shall, of course, try to connect with you during the day if you should have any free time left. Nothing could please me better than to have you take luncheon with me on Friday at noon, but this must shape itself to suit your convenience in view of the brevity of your stay. If, in connection with your sojourn in New York, I can be of any assistance to you whatsoever, kindly let me know.

With kind regards, believe me to be

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Braun

WAB/EE

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February 6th, 1919

Professor W. A. Braun,

Barnard College,

Columbia University, New York.

My dear Professor Braun:

Would you be kind enough to let me know what subject you wish me to take up when I address your meeting on Friday, February 21st? Is there any very definite object that you would like me to keep before myself ?

I have to thank you for kindly offering me to take luncheon with you on Friday at noon, and I shall be glad to do so unless I find that other arrangements have been made or that duties emerge that must be fulfilled and would interfere with your kind offer.

Yours sincerely,

President.

Barnard College
Columbia University
New York

February eighth,
1 9 1 9

Sir Robert Falconer,
University of Toronto.

My dear Sir Robert:

Replying to your note of February sixth, in regard to the subject of your address at Barnard on the twenty-first, let me say that we have formulated the general theme of our series as "The Religious Emphasis for the New Day." As to the manner of approach, you probably have in mind that we have at Columbia and also at Barnard a somewhat heterogeneous and racially and religiously mixed class of students; and we have found it very difficult to influence a certain portion of them with religious counsel of any excepting the broadest type. That is not to say that we do not find room for evangelical appeals to the Christian element, which will after all constitute the majority of your audience. Nevertheless, we find it most effective to emphasize those aspects of religious life in which all are at least tolerably united.

There can be no doubt in our minds that as a result of the experiences of these last four or five years, there has come a shifting of emphasis and a reinterpretation along religious as well as along other lines of thought. If some of our speakers should express views that are somewhat radical, others will probably balance the scale by treating the subject in a more conservative way. So please consider yourself quite free as to the direction which you may choose to give to your address. If you prefer to make it general, speaking upon the theme stated, that will be very good; if, on the other hand, you have been pondering any special aspects or problems involved and wish to speak of those, or of one of them, that also will be very acceptable and helpful.

In regard to my suggestion for luncheon at noon on Friday, I shall, of course gladly subordinate the arrangement to the exigencies of the situation as you may find it upon your arrival. We must surely have a cup of tea after the lecture, after which I should be glad to have you take dinner with me if that should work out better than the mid-day appointment.

Perhaps by Thursday evening you could see far enough ahead to to tell me your preference, in which case you might call me by phone at my apartment, Morningside 4102, Apartment 803, let us say about six-thirty.

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Braun

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Columbia University
in the City of New York
COLUMBIA HOUSE
419 WEST 117TH STREET

February Ninth,
1 9 1 9

Sir Robert Falconer
President University of Toronto
T o r o n t o, Canada

My dear President Falconer:

May I impose upon your patience with a little postscript to my letter of yesterday.

Mrs. Braun and I are very anxious to give a few of our friends at the University an opportunity of meeting you after your address at Barnard College on Friday afternoon, and would like to ask you and them to have a cup of tea with us in our home, which is right next door to the College.

I know how busy you will be while here, but perhaps the hour after the lecture, from five to six, would be an odd bit of time which you could spare for us, at least we hope so. It would not prevent your accepting a dinner engagement for six-thirty or seven, if you wished to do so. If you are free for dinner, I should, of course, be delighted to have you dine with me at the Columbia University Club with one or two good friends.

If the proposed arrangement is agreeable to you, and you will kindly let me know, we shall be very glad to send cards to any friends of yours here whom you might wish to greet and who might not chance to have any other opportunity of seeing you.

With kind regards, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Braun

(Kindly address me, as before, at Barnard College)

February 11th, 1919

Professor H. A. Braun,

Barnard College,

Columbia University,

New York.

My dear Professor Braun:

It is very kind of Mrs. Braun and yourself to ask me to take a cup of tea with you after my talk on Friday afternoon, and I shall be very glad to do so. I have an engagement for the evening but I know that I shall have plenty of time between five and half past six to accomplish my necessary preparations.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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March 10th, 1919

Professor W. A. Braun,

Barnard College,

Columbia University, New York.

My dear Professor Braun:

I did not expect such a generous surprise as has come this morning in the honorarium of thirty dollars for my talk to your students in New York. As I told you then I did not expect anything, but apparently as you have a fund at your disposal I will accept it, though I will at once use it in paying my way to the meeting of the Religious Education Association which meets in Detroit next week where I have to give an address, so that you will see it will all go in the way of Religious Education.

I look back with the greatest pleasure to my afternoon with you and to the generous hospitality that Mrs. Braun and yourself showed me. Though it was stormy outside it was very bright and happy inside. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.